



# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

**For Immediate Release  
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## **First Million Tons of Moab Tailings Shipped to Crescent Junction for Disposal**

(Grand Junction, CO) — In less than 11 months since beginning rail shipments, the U.S. Department of Energy has transported its first million tons of uranium mill tailings from Moab, Utah, to the disposal cell constructed near Crescent Junction, Utah. The first trainload for the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project occurred on April 20, 2009, and on March 3, 2010, a trainload carrying the millionth ton left Moab.

“DOE is thrilled to have reached this milestone in less than a year,” said Moab Federal Project Director Donald Metzler. “Consistently shipping maximum trainloads of 136 containers has definitely helped us hit the 1-million-ton mark,” added Metzler. One million tons is roughly equivalent to a volume that would fill 30 floors of the Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower). The mill tailings pile at the Moab site has a total weight of about 16 million tons.

Almost half of the one million tons, or 490,000 tons, was shipped using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. ARRA shipments began augmenting the regular shipments in June 2009.

Recognition of reaching this milestone will be given by Metzler at the Grand County Council meeting to be held on March 16 in Moab.

– DOE –

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